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## **The Power of Narrative Ethics: Why Your Client's Story Matters**

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**Introduction/Rationale:** Our client's stories inform us not only of their goals, wishes and needs but of their own ethos. Ethicists Maron & Montello (2002) provide health care practitioners with sound approaches used across health care disciplines to better understand our clients priorities and **teach us how to find the "patient's narrative thread"** in the fabric of their lived experience. Listening to, and understanding one's ethical narrative not only guides us closer to evidence based practice, it **is** the ethical approach to practice.

**Objectives:** Learn how your client's use of narrative story telling **informs you**, the practitioner, on what matters most to the client in their daily life. Participants will learn the basic elements of narrative theory and narrative story telling and how to situate themselves in the everyday lives of their clients in order to not only **hear** the client's story but how to interpret it within an ethical and social context.

**Approach:** Lecture with audio and video examples of narrative story telling in practice; small group discussion

**Practice Implications:** Understanding the subjective lens of the client can inform the practitioner of the client's values and over-arching ethos. Giving a voice to our client's story requires we learn how to listen and, in turn, actualize what our clients truly want and need.

**Conclusion:** Narrative ethics is both an art and a science for health care practitioners to embrace in practice.